**Seminar 3**

HHS4U Family Theories

**Tasks**

1. Read Handout #1 Conceptualizing Families:   
   Theoretical Frameworks by Meg Luxton

pages 26-30 and 34-46

1. Read Handout #2 Theoretical Perspectives   
   by Maureen Holloway, Garth Holloway and Jane Witte

pages 36-46

1. Watch Emma Watson’s UN Speech and or read it
2. Read the handout on Queer Theory
3. Complete the work below…

**Terms - Minds On**“normal family” feminists Christian New Right   
the “natural family” the “anti social family” male privilege

task leader emotional leader deviant  
boundary confusion sexism misogyny  
deconstruction

theory

**Theories…**

(structural) functionalism symbolic interactionism systems

developmental (life course) social exchange theory feminist theory

liberal feminism socialist feminism women of coulour /anti oppression feminism

radical feminism post modernism queer theory

**Summary**

Write a five sentences summary of either of the excerpts (handout #1 or handout #2). Try to be as comprehensive as you can in these five sentences. Include as much of the key information as possible. There will be a prize for the best one! NOTE: Do this first so you don’t forget, it is worth marks on its own.

**Discussion Questions - Action***Introduction*

1. Briefly outline the history of the debate over same sex families and the position and actions taken by Stephen Harper, leader of the Conservative Party?
2. What was the view of Pope Benedict XVI regarding family? Research the view of the current pope, Pope Francis on the issue of same sex marriage.
3. What is at stake in debates about how families are defined?
4. On page 28 in the last paragraph and on to page 29, Luxton cites the various shifts in family that exist today versus the singular nuclear family of the mid-1900s. Additionally, she mentions other practices that are being challenged, such as the social and legal subordination of women to men. Detail the ways in which women were legally and socially subordinate to men. How are the two types of subordination linked?
5. What are some of the ways that males have experienced privilege in our society? Also, what other social mores have been or are being challenged?

This is from the Holloway reading

These are from the Luxton reading

*Learning Goal (Begin with the End in Mind): I will have a working knowledge of many of the key theories used to understand, explain and conceptualize families. I will also understand why the way we see families affects social infrastructures, such as political, economic and social policies.*

*Contemporary Theories*

1. Contemporary theories about the family are based on the older historical ones developed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. How have new developments and shifts in family affected family theories?

*Liberal Theories*

1. Explain in point form the main tenets of the **structural functionalism theory**. Where did it originate? Is this a macro or micro analysis? Provide an example. List the pros and cons of this theory. If possible draw a diagram or symbol that represents this theory. Luxton 35-38; Holloway 37-38
2. Explain in point form the main tenets of the **symbolic interactionism theory**. Where did it originate? Is this a macro or micro analysis? Provide an example. List the pros and cons of this theory. If possible draw a diagram or symbol that represents this theory. Luxton 38-39; Holloway 39
3. Explain in point form the main tenets of the **systems theory**. Where did it originate? Is this a macro or micro analysis? Provide an example. List the pros and cons of this theory. If possible draw a diagram or symbol that represents this theory. Luxton 39-40; Holloway 38-39
4. Explain in point form the main tenets of the **developmental theory** (aka life cycle or life course). Where did it originate? Is this a macro or micro analysis? Provide an example. List the pros and cons of this theory. If possible draw a diagram or symbol that represents this theory. Luxton 40; Holloway 42-43
5. Explain in point form the main tenets of the **exchange theory**. Where did it originate? Is this a macro or micro analysis? Provide an example. List the pros and cons of this theory. If possible draw a diagram or symbol that represents this theory. Luxton 40-41; Holloway 41-42
6. Explain in point form the main tenets of the **conflict theory**. Where did it originate? Is this a macro or micro analysis? Provide an example. List the pros and cons of this theory. If possible draw a diagram or symbol that represents this theory. Luxton 32-33; Holloway 43-44
7. Explain in point form the main tenets of **feminist theory**. Where did it originate? Is this a macro or micro analysis? Provide an example. List the pros and cons of this theory. If possible draw a diagram or symbol that represents this theory. Luxton 39-40; Holloway 45
8. Differentiate between; liberal, socialist, anti-oppression (women of colour) and radical feminism. Luxton 39-40; Holloway 45
9. Explain in point form the main tenets of **post modernism theory**. Where did it originate? Is this a macro or micro analysis? Provide an example. List the pros and cons of this theory. If possible draw a diagram or symbol that represents this theory.
10. Explain in point form the main tenets of **queer theory**. Where did it originate? Is this a macro or micro analysis? Provide an example. List the pros and cons of this theory. If possible draw a diagram or symbol that represents this theory. Luxton 39-40; Holloway 45
11. How does Luxton explain the variety of theories used to understand families? What does she say is an important challenge for family sociologists?

**Reflection Questions - Consolidation**

1. Which theory or theories do you most identify with? Why?
2. Which theory or theories do you least identify with? Why?
3. Which is the hardest to understand?
4. Which is the easiest?